

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.), PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY TO BULGARIA

REF: STATE 203524

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, DURING MY CALL ON HIM AUGUST 27, VERY PROMPTLY ACCEPTED PROPOSAL THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY VISIT SOFIA FOLLOWING HIS STAY IN BUDAPEST, THOUGH HE DID EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR A LATER VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. MLADENOV URGED THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 16, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR GOB LEADERS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE A TWO-DAY VISIT WOULD BE MORE RELAXED AND WOULD PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION, I AM NOT RPT NOT ENDORSING MLADENOV'S URGING. WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT WE KNOW WHETHER ARRIVAL WILL BE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 16 OR MID-MORNING SEPTEMBER 17, SO THAT PLANNING CAN COMMENCE. BULGARIAN PROTOCOL WILL BE TIED UP IN KNOTS MOST OF NEXT WEEK BECAUSE OF INFLUX OF VIP'S FOR THE PLOVDIV FAIR, WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY TWO-DAY NATIONAL HOLIDAY. HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT A GOOD SCHEDULE CAN BE ARRANGED WHETHER VISIT IS OF TWO OR ONE-AND-A-HALF DAYS.
HERZ

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